

11 November 1981

NSC Review Completed.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Civil Defense Working Group Meeting

1. The first meeting of the Civil Defense Working Group of the Emergency Mobilization Preparedness Board was held at FEMA Headquarters on 9 November. The objective for the meeting was to discuss a FEMA-prepared draft mission plan for the Civil Defense Working Group. The meeting was chaired by Lee Thomas and the presentation was made by John Dickey [redacted] STAT

2. Dickey used a series of viewgraphs to outline the civil defense problem and proposed FEMA actions. Basically, they propose to relocate people from targeted and heavy fall-out areas to safer locations. This means transporting a major part of the population and sustaining them for an extended period of time--something in the order of a month or more.

3. To indicate the targeting and the fall out problems, Dickey used a couple of charts which he admitted were well out of date. The fall-out charts for spring and fall following a nuclear attack were much less threatening than those I have seen recently. Subsequent to the presentation, Dickey said that NIE 11-3 of 1977 was used as the basis for the description of the attack. Dickey pointed out that an update is needed and hoped that it could be made available to FEMA in an unclassified version.

4. The response to the proposed FEMA mission statement was along two lines: the broadness of the mission statement and the administration of the program. The DOD representative, Colonel Conrad Gonzalaz, said that they had been puzzled by the mission statement because it was so broad that it could be interpreted to mean practically anything. Gonzalaz further objected to the notion that FEMA would be acting to solve a broad spectrum of problems. Dickey explained that FEMA will simply undertake to cause things to be done and not necessarily to do them--giving, as an example, the development of attack analyses by the Central Intelligence Agency.

5. The discussion relating to administration ranged from what the White House is going to do about civil defense to the potential use of state farm agents at the local level in order to administer any program that is developed. Lee Thomas, a political appointee with considerable experience in State

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Governments, repeatedly returned to the importance of getting the cooperation of the State and local governments and the necessarily long lead times in doing this. For example, if the White House approves the enhanced package, Lee estimated it would take six months to a year to develop a well-defined program which would then be followed by the state and local legislation required to provide the matching funds required for the program. Although the discussion was primarily on how to secure state and local support and participation, Dickey noted that the interest in the program is so great that he is receiving approximately 100 letters a day inquiring about the status of the program in addition to numerous Congressional inquiries.

5. Gonzalas reiterated that it was imperative for FEMA to disclose what the FEMA plan really is and complained that the document provided as a mission statement did not do this. Gonzalas then went on to outline the background of the entire Civil Defense program beginning with a group formed after PRIM-32 was signed by Carter. According to Gonzalas, PRIM-32 ultimately led to PD-41 and the establishment of the working group legitimized by Allen. Papers developed by the earlier group outlined three options in civil defense. These are purported to be better defined than the FEMA mission statement and Gonzalaz agreed to provide a sanitized version of the 14-page paper for the Civil Defense Working Group.

6. John Dickey noted that PD-58 had provided the impetus to generate the policies and studies relating to the Emergency Mobilization Preparedness Board and that a related study at FEMA is to go on for two years.

7. The meeting concluded with a statement of three action items:

a. FEMA will get out the unclassified version of the Gonzalaz paper;

b. Participating agencies should submit any specific recommendations for changes to the draft mission paper to FEMA;

c. The State Department and the Department of Transportation will be invited to participate as members of the Civil Defense Working Group

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Report on  
first meeting  
(9 November)  
of Civil Defense  
Working Group  
of Emergency  
Mobilization  
Preparedness  
Board.